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ALBERT H. ROBERTS

ST. PETERSBURG INDEPENDENT ON DRAINAGE.

The statement is frequently made that the Board of Drainage Commissioners, in addition to being vested with extraordinary powers, are responsible to the legislature for the actions of the legislature. This is an error, arising generally from ignorance doubtless, but in all the same. It is true that the amendment does not specify that the Commissioners shall make reports to the legislature, but there are ample provisions for this in the Constitution, which is not aside by the amendment; for the amendment creates a board and confers upon it certain powers, it does not relieve the individuals composing it of their duties under the constitution and laws of the state. Back of all stands the power of the legislature to impeach and remove from office any member of that board for misfeasance or malfeasance in office, even though a specific crime should not be committed; and again, the liability of any official who is guilty of a violation of law, to be sued in the courts as a common law action, in addition to removal from office in the state. More than this, the constitution and laws specify duties upon the members composing the proposed board that they could not evade, and that they should desire to do so. The Drainage Commission would be composed of the governor, the comptroller, the treasurer, the attorney general, and the commissioner of agriculture of the state. All except the governor and the comptroller are elected officials—the treasurer for a term of one hundred thousand dollars—for a faithful performance of their duties. The duties of the attorney general and the commissioner of agriculture, as prescribed by law, do not seem to have any particular bearing upon the duties of the drainage commission, but duties of the other members do. The duties of the administrative officers are prescribed in article 4 of the State Constitution. Section 9, provides that the governor shall "communicate by message to the legislature at each regular session information concerning the condition of the state." Mainly, the work of the drainage commission, of which he would be a member, should be reported as a part of the "condition of the state," and a self-respecting legislature would lose no time impeaching a member who would refuse to inform them upon such an important matter. Section 23, provides that "the comptroller shall examine, audit, settle, and settle the accounts of the officers of the state," and he is required to give a penal bond for the faithful performance of these duties. Section 24, provides that "the treasurer shall receive and keep all public moneys, bonds and other securities, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law; and shall disburse the same in such manner as shall be prescribed by law; and shall issue bonds, or other securities, except on order of the comptroller, countersigned by the governor, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law." Section 27, provides that the administrative officers shall make reports of all acts, receipts and

expenditures of their respective offices to the governor at the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, or whenever the governor shall require it, and further says, "Either house of the legislature may at any time call upon any officer of this (executive) department for information required by it." It is provided elsewhere in the Constitution that the accounts of the officials shall be inspected by a joint committee of five from the senate and the house of representatives, appointed each session.

I have emphasized several words and phrases in the above sections of the Constitution for the benefit of the astute editors and constitutional lawyers who do not seem to be aware that they are there.

The opponents of the amendment would have us believe that if it is adopted the legislature will be legislated out of the question entirely, in spite of the last section of the proposed amendment, which reads, "The legislature may provide for the assessment of benefits derived by lands by reason of such drainage, and the collection thereof; and the proceeds therefrom shall be paid to the Board of Drainage Commissioners to be used by them for such drainage purposes."

If the language of the amendment itself, the plain provisions of the state constitution, the numerous acts of legislature passed to make effective the constitutional checks upon the executive officers, the liability to impeachment and criminal prosecution, and ultimate responsibility to the people at the polls does not make the proposed board of Drainage Commissioners a responsible body, responsible to the courts, responsible to the people, responsible to the legislature, then what in the name of common sense do we need to make them a "responsible body?" We anxiously await suggestions.—Albert H. Roberts in Tampa Tribune.

Jury List.

The fall term of the Circuit Court for DeSoto county meets Tuesday, October 23rd. The following names have been drawn to serve as jurors:

R. L. Cowart, W. B. Beeson, G. H. Hayman, M. V. Sapp, F. M. Alderman, C. G. Davis, S. W. Conroy, J. B. Bunch, R. L. Rowland, James Carlton, Carl Hayman, A. P. Jordan, A. J. Stewart, W. W. Langford, C. A. Addison, W. D. Waterson, L. M. Richardson, H. G. Johnson, O. H. Parker, J. L. Livingston, J. F. Murphey, R. W. Williams, R. P. Bass, C. P. Lamb, B. F. Roberts, Milton Whidden, J. W. Freeman, D. C. Bethea, Henry Futch, W. E. Wingate.

There are a number of sick people in Arcadia that should have the attention of those charitably inclined. The family out on Mrs. E. T. Smith's place are said to be very destitute and the mother of twins lying unconscious. Other sick persons not so poor but still needing care are the McGees, both Mr. and Mrs. McGee having recently been down with fever. Mrs. Geo. Williams and daughter, Lilly, are both in bed with fever, and Mrs. Lane. There are others whose names we failed to learn.

AN AMERICAN VIEW

OF THE SITUATION IN THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

MARTIN LOPEZ, Oct. 6, 1906.

DEAR ARCADIAN: Our war scare is over, as you probably knew as soon or even sooner than we did. A good many persons here feel that the insurrectos beat the government and the United States also; we feel a good deal that way ourselves, but I suppose the commissioners thought peace at any price was better than war. Giving the rebels their stolen horses and letting them all off scot free is only another bid for another war as soon as a few office holders get out of a job. Of course we do not know what Uncle Sam proposes to do with Cuba. If it was made a territory under a governor general with military rule it would suit me best. It is evident that the Cubans are not capable of self government, as no country ever had a better chance to try and failed utterly.

I think three-fourths of the insurgents were negros and mulattos and nine-tenths of them pay no taxes, and had nothing to lose. President Palma is a good and just man and I feel very sorry for him.

D. W. CHILD.

The war is over! We are glad! No one not near the field of action can properly gauge our relief. Still, our confidence is not entirely restored; the shock has been too great. Then too—we had—at least I had—expected the war to end differently. I was ready to believe in case intervention became necessary the United States would step in and help the government restore order; not by making concessions to the rebels when the government was plainly in the right, but by upholding the laws and punishing their violation. Imagine my surprise then on learning that the commissioners had intervened and had made or caused to be made practically all the concessions the revolutionists asked for! Personally I have nothing against the rebels. Several are known to me and I count them as friends; but their cause was wrong, to my mind a clear case of blackmail, to bulldoze the government for sake of graft. In extenuation of the rebels will say that I do not think many understood just what they were fighting for. They wanted Jose Miguel Gomez for president and I understand he had promised them social as well as political equality for the negro and mestizos. Of course you will at once see the absurdity of the idea and the impossibility of its execution. But it served to attract a lot of young negros and mulattoes who had little to lose and everything to gain, while most of the officers of what they now call the Constitutional army were white office seekers.

As to their large number. At least half of them joined after peace negotiations had begun, hoping that the troops of both sides would be paid in the final settlement. Take as an example the command of Tello Sanchez, that was defeated here at La Sierpe Los Chinos by Colonels Simon Reyner and Arteaga. Various of the stragglers told the neighbors

that they numbered 200. One man put the number at 185 and another said 140. The official report of Arteaga said 93 horses were captured and five were killed, and I don't think many of them got away with their horses.

On the 19th of September The Taft Commission arrived in Cuba, and on October 2 Don Jose Miguel Gomez, who had just been liberated from prison in Havana, by American Intervention was at Lucumi to review the troops of Tello Sanchez, being received with great enthusiasm and much shooting and cheering. The soldiers numbered on this occasion 1000 at least all well mounted and armed with every sort of a weapon, guns, revolvers and every one with a machete.

Now these men were not out to fight but to make a show. If they are allowed to keep the horses they were riding and other people lose the cattle and hogs they ate while soldiering it ain't so bad for a picnic! If revolutions were made so pleasant and profitable in the United States people would take them up as a fad instead of a camp hunt!

One of our neighbors called to see us today. He thinks that the present arrangement is great for the revolutionists, who, he says, are now being supplied with rations by the government. He says he heard they were also to be paid \$2 per day for their time since they have been in the field. This latter rumor I discredit, altho I am getting used to surprises and would not be much surprised if it were true. He don't think it will take the rebels long to get dissatisfied with the United States plan, and owing to the success of their first venture a larger number will rebel. Then the American government will be called on to make another divide or learn the advantages of Cuba for Cuban guerilla warfare. Our neighbor is a Spaniard which may influence his point of view.

Captain Manuel Higinio Gomez, of the Cuban government militia, Order Publico, just disbanded in Sancti Spiritus, says that ex-President Palma partisans, the Moderatos, feel very deeply their loss of prestige and control of government but that they will patiently wait to declare themselves at the ballot box and being the party of law and order will not resort to revolt in arms altho they consider themselves unjustly treated.

DANIEL CHILD.

Presbyterian Church.

Rev. H. Keigwin Stated Supply. Services next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and Sunday School at 10 o'clock.

The evening meeting will be held at seven o'clock in the Methodist church in a Union Service and in view of the Union Evangelistic Services which are hoped for, in the near future, the appropriate theme of the sermon will be Individual work for Individuals.

Green—Frazee.

Miss Nellie Grant Green and Doctor Frazee were married at the home of the bride's parents in Arcadia on Wednesday. Miss Nellie is popular in Arcadia and many friends will wish her much happiness and congratulate Doctor Frazee on securing such a bonny bride.

A NEW RAILROAD

TO GO TO AVON PARK AND CREWSVILLE.

Commissioner Wm. King, of Avon Park, has been busy at Arcadia this week securing right of way for a new branch road of the A. C. L., which is to run from Haines City to Lake Jackson, about six miles south of Avon Park and a little east of Crewsville. The line is to pass through Avon Park and follows the lake region down all the way. The survey was completed some time ago and Mr. King is fast getting the right of way as far as Lake Jackson.

Mrs. Johnston Dead.

Mrs. Louisa S. Johnston, widow of Dr. Smoot Johnston, died at the home of her son, B. S. Johnston, of Joshua Creek, on Tuesday. She had been sick only four days with nervous prostration, altho' her health has been failing for some years.

Mrs. Johnston was the only sister of T. O. Parker, mother of Anna Lu Gates and three sons who survive her. She was born in Florida 59 years ago; was a consistent member of the Joshua Creek Methodist church for twenty-five years, and led a useful, busy life and leaves a host of relatives and friends in DeSoto county who will learn of her death with sadness.

The death of Miss Maggie Carlton, daughter of M. G. Carlton, of Zolfo, occurred at Ft. Ogden on last Monday night. We have not learned the particulars of her illness. Miss Maggie was a bright, winsome girl in her early womanhood, who—together with her brother John, was teaching in the Ft. Ogden school. She was ill only a few days. The heartbroken parents and other relatives have the sympathy of many friends in this overwhelming affliction.

The orange business seems to be on full blast as the streets are testifying by the loaded teams coming in to the packing houses continually. The market, too, is said to be strong, and you may preach against the shipment of green oranges all you please but the growers and buyers will keep shipping so long as there is a demand at good prices for the fruit.

The roof of the Arcadia Steam Laundry caught on fire from sparks one day this week and but for prompt action on the part of those near would have burned and set that part of the city on fire. The roof of the building should be made of fire proof material. As it now stands it is a constant menace to that part of Arcadia.

R. D. Gauby has sold his crop of fruit to Mr. Rawls, oranges at 80 cts. per box, grape fruit at \$1.50. After the fruit is picked Mr. and Mrs. Gauby will move into Arcadia for the winter.

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session in Arcadia this week for the purpose of revising the registration list and appointing inspectors and clerks for the election next month.